The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 378 under Demand XV—Jails.

The motion was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XX—AGRICULTURE.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture and Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 6,140 under Demand XX—Agriculture. The governing body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned 3 schemes to be worked in Travancore. The first of these schemes relates to what is called a "village project." The basic idea underlying a project is to synthesise the results of research into a system of farming on a group of holdings in a village with a view to secure the largest possible financial return to the farmer and at the same time to build up and conserve the fertility of the lands. In this project, adequate attention is paid to both crop husbandry and animal husbandry. The works to be carried out include improvement in tillage methods, introduction of scientific manures, improved strains of seeds and suitable crop rotations, grading up of cattle, increasing grazing facilities, introduction of cottage industries, etc. In short, what is really aimed at in a project is to help the farmer to adopt simultaneously a whole series of improvements and to derive the combined effect of all these measures. The village of Thazhakudi in South Travancore has been selected for this purpose and I am able to announce to this House that the villagers there have promised their full co-operation in regard to this project. This scheme will be of special value to Travancore where the main impediment to the extension of improved and scientific methods of agriculture is the extremely fragmented and uneconomic nature of the cultivator's holdings.

The second scheme relates to milk recording which is closely connected with the scheme of the grading up of cattle in the town of Trivandrum. The honourable members of the House are aware that the only possible way of improving our cattle, is by mating the cows with superior breed of bulls such as the Sindhi Bulls. The cattle here are of a mongrel and non-descript type, out of which it is well nigh impossible to attempt to evolve a definite type by selective breeding. In this scheme the recording of the milk yield of cows systematically is very important.

The third scheme is the extension of the scheme of research on cocoanut diseases. The honourable members will remember that I dilated at considerable length on this problem during the last Budget session. The first stage of the investigation of the disease

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

is over and the organisms responsible for the cause have been found out. The environmental conditions under which the disease is produced have also been discovered. The second stage of the scheme deals with experiments which have to be conducted in the field involving both application of scientific manures and spraying with fungicides, to bring the disease under control.

The honourable members might ask the question why the Demand has been brought forward now. My answer is that these items of works were not contemplated during the regular budget time. The Imperial Council have sanctioned the schemes only now. In all these schemes, the Council have agreed to contribute 50 per cent. of the cost incurred for the purpose and in view of the great practical utility of these schemes to the State I request the honourable members to concede this Demand.

President: The honourable members of the House will be glad to notice that for some time past we have been connected with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and they are taking a live interest in South India and Travancore in particular and are now financing certain of our schemes.

The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 6,140 under Demand XX—Agriculture.

The motion was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—Co-Operative.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,400 under Demand XXII—Co-operative Department—for meeting the expenditure in connection with the work of the Co-operative Advisory Committee. I do not think that it is necessary for me at this stage to expatiate at considerable length on the present position of the co-operative movement. The honourable members of the House know it only too well. Although started with the best of intentions, it has not developed on right lines. It has been on the decline for some years past and unless prompt and effective measures are taken, it will still further deteriorate. The Central Bank, the Taluk Banks and the Primary Societies are now stuck up in the mud as it were and I do not think that I am using the language of exaggeration when I say that the entire movement is in a state of suspended animation. But every one will realise that there is no other single organisation than the co-operative movement which could be an efficient factor in promoting economic life in various spheres such as agriculture, the development of cottage industries and the marketing of agricultural

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly